

## MR. J. R. CHISHOLM.

Members of the R.A.O.U. will regret to learn that Mr. James R. Chisholm, of Prairie, northern Queensland, died recently, at the age of 72. A pastoralist of original views, Mr. Chisholm was best known for his gossipy writings, "Along the Line," in the *North Queensland Register*. He was a student of birds in a modest way, and contributed several interesting paragraphs to *The Emu*.

## MR. LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES.

Louis Agassiz Fuertes, noted American painter and illustrator of bird-life, was killed in a railroad crossing accident on August 22, 1927. Mr. Fuertes was born in Ithaca in 1874 and had been lecturer on ornithology at Cornell. He was the illustrator for Chapman's "Handbook" and "Bird Life," Burgess's "Bird Book for Children" and "Animal Book," and Mabel Osgood Wright's "Citizen Bird" and "Birdcraft," as well as numerous species series for the "National Geographic Magazine."

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Mr. Littlejohns' Lyre-Bird Film.

MANY of the difficulties against which nature-photographers have to contend were revealed in a moving picture of Lyre-Birds which was shown to a large audience of members of the R.A.O.U. at the Foresters' Hall, Melbourne, on October 17, 1927. The filming of these birds had been carried out by Mr. R. T. Littlejohns, who is well known throughout Australia for his fine bird-photographs. In introducing Mr. Littlejohns to the meeting, Dr. J. A. Leach complimented the photographer upon the splendid work he has already achieved with the camera and predicted that similar success will attend him with the cinematograph.

The screening of the picture ran through 900 feet of film and many phases in the home-life of the Lyre-Bird were shown. Some very fine forest scenery was shown in the "haunts of the Lyre-Bird," and this was followed by several striking views of the female as she scratched for food amongst the *débris* on the ground. Other times she could be seen running along fallen logs out of the way of the cinematographer, and once she came out into the open and ran for some distance along a tourist track. The shyness of the male bird is well known, but Mr. Littlejohns has even succeeded in filming the male, with its tail outspread, on a dancing mound. The film concluded with several unique scenes of the female bringing food to the young.

After the screening of the film Mr. Littlejohns entertained the audience with stories of his experiences amongst these interesting birds. It had taken almost five years to complete the film, and in that time he had spent many week-ends throughout the whole year in the ranges in pursuit of these birds. Mr. Littlejohns expressed high appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered him by Mr. Herschel, who had been very liberal in supplying the apparatus to enable him to carry out the work.

Mr. Herschel, who commended Mr. Littlejohns for his enthusiasm, related that he had, regardless of expense, spared no efforts to make the enterprise a success. He had sent specially to Europe to procure a lens which would be of advantage in dense forest gullies where the light was dull. The developing of the film had also required much attention, and it was often necessary to intensify portions of it. Mr. Herschel promised to give further attention to the filming of Australian fauna.

Dr. Leach, Messrs. W. Stephen and Lush expressed their appreciation to Messrs. Littlejohns and Herschel for their patriotism in filming the birds of this country. Regret was expressed that other prominent citizens have not afforded similar facilities to cinematographers to work upon the native fauna as Mr. Herschel has done in this enterprise.

Later in the evening Mr. Littlejohns showed a splendid series of lantern slides of the home-life of three species of Dotterels.

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## Notes and Comments.

There are still some contributors to *The Emu* who use discarded technical names, thereby causing needless editorial trouble in correcting their writings. All members of the R.A.O.U. should secure the Check-List (Second Edition), and use the names given there. Send 12s. 8d. to the General Secretary, R.A.O.U., 168 Latrobe Street, Melbourne, and a copy of the Check-List will be forwarded. It is also requested that contributions to *The Emu* should be type-written; when this is not possible technical names should be written with especial clearness.

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Regarding the new Field-Wren (*Calamanthus winiam*) mentioned in *Emu*, ante, p. 80, through a misunderstanding bird, nest and eggs were described under the name of A. G. Campbell. It should have been under the joint names of A. J. and A. G. Campbell. The correction is hereby recorded. It is hoped that a coloured plate of the species will appear in a later issue.